

were years ago desolate wastes on which baseball players or circuses occasionally stamped down the pigweed. They were first known as "the parade ground" because the militia did its training there. When the city was organized a court house, &c., be-

came necessary and H. S. Pierce, J. P. Foster, I. H. Russ, William Root, G. R. Love, J. M. Poor, J. H. Estabrook, J. G. Murray, G. M. Reynolds and J. R. Fordham sent this petition to councils: "Having heard that your bodies contemplate building a city hall and believing there is no site so good as the parade ground we would respectfully ask that you take such steps as are necessary for the removal of the barn now on said ground.



PHILLIPS WILSON,  
First Visiting Superintendent of Schools.

The first step toward reclaiming what is now Memorial park was made by Wm. H. Davies Post 187 G. A. R., which issued an appeal to the public for funds for fencing the ground, erecting a monument and a fountain. J. B. Van Bergen was made chairman of the committee in charge and J. M. Alexander secretary.

The city appropriated \$1,000 and the remaining money was raised by entertainments and by individual subscriptions. W. H. Davies Post gave \$60. The first subscription was from a poor woman and was twenty-five cents. The largest individual subscription was \$100. The total cost was \$4,645.09. The monument was dedicated May 30th, 1885, and the Park was then opened to the public.

#### THE FIRST FRAME STORE.

William H. Richmond commenced his business life here in May, 1845, in the store built by Salmon Lathrop in 1828 and occupied it until 1855 when it was burned. By kind permission of Mr. Richmond we are able to present a picture of this store. When first erected its front was perfectly plain. In 1845 Richmond & Robinson added the porch and large windows on the first floor. The addition marked "shoe shop" was Carbondale's first postoffice.

In those days the best of lumber was used and all structures were built in a substantial manner. The dwellings occupied by James McMillan, Mrs. W. P. E. Morss, Dr. Malaun, Mrs. Bargar, Mrs. W. Mc-

Mullen, H. B. Jadwin and the former Benedict estate are among the earlier houses erected. There are a few of the older buildings yet standing around the park, and on River Street.

#### STAGE COACHING.

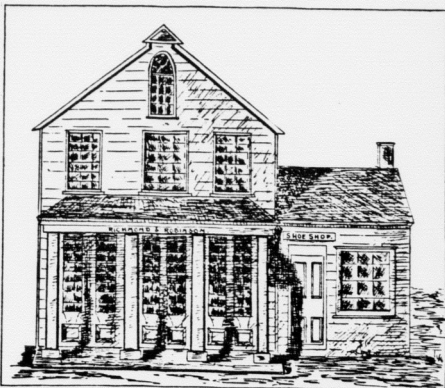
This is how Hon. T. V. Powderly recalls our stage coaching days:

"I can vividly remember with what wonder and awe I stood at respectful distance from the roadside to witness the flight of the Fast mail as Bronson's Wilkes-Barre and Carbondale stage rocking and swinging, drawn by four prancing but not always gaily caparisoned steeds transported it to the Carbondale Post Office which at that time was, I believe, a distributing point for the Bethany, Dundaff, Hawley and Honesdale mails. That old stage coach with its sea-sick occupants, its bright green body, its gilded panels and its formidable array of trunks, carpet bags and band boxes was a wonder and taken in connection with its roadbed of three-inch hemlock planks, was a thing of beauty though both have passed away instead of remaining a joy forever."

A still better idea of the slowness of that period is had from the following expression of congressman H. W. Palmer, of Wilkes-Barre.

"Our family left Carbondale in the fall of 1849, when my father was elected sheriff of Luzerne county. The news of his election did not reach Carbondale until Saturday night; four days after the event. There was no means of communication with Wilkes-Barre except by Bronson's stage coach and it was very welcome when it lumbered in on Saturday night from that city with the momentous news." Today the election of a national President is known throughout the whole country a few hours after the polls close.

The first passenger train to Honesdale on the Gravity road went out April 5, 1877. The first water company, (Crystal Lake,) was formed in 1858. The



CARBONDALE'S FIRST FRAME STORE AND FIRST POST OFFICE.